

Observations and Inferences I

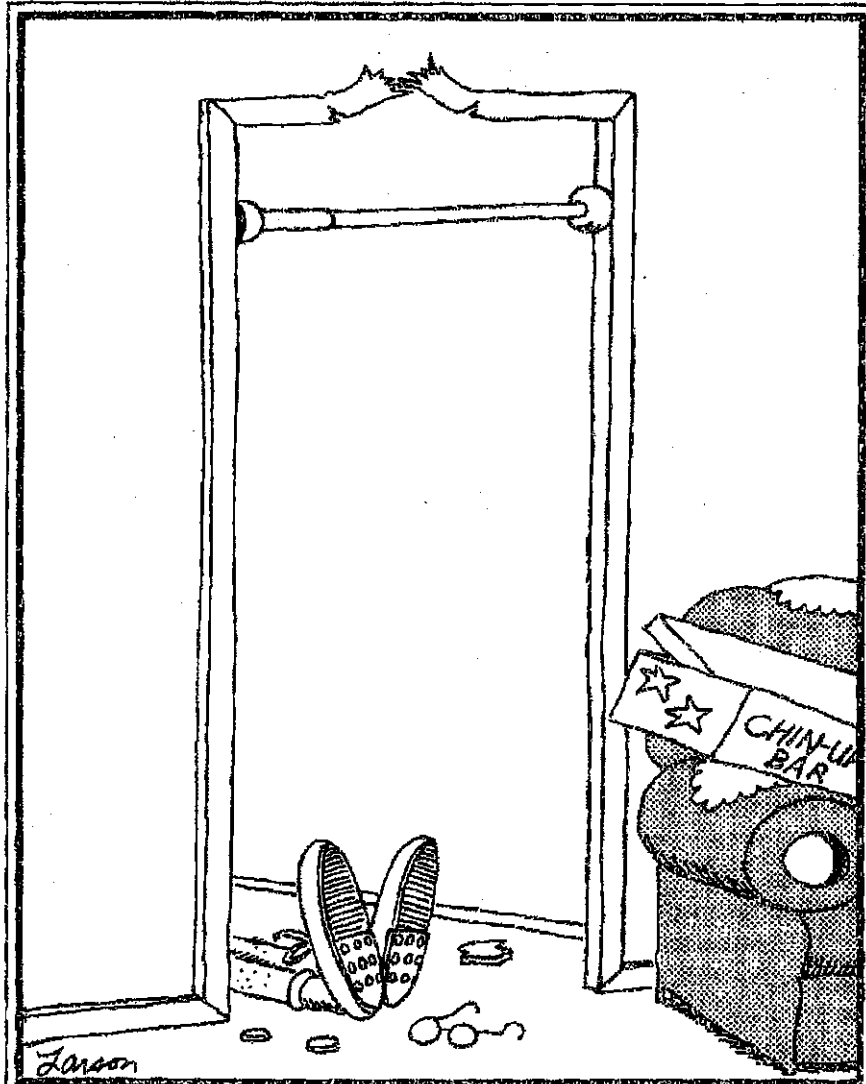
Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Purpose

In this activity you will be asked to distinguish between *observations* and *inferences*.

Directions: In the space below, write a detailed account of what happened in the cartoon. (Continue your account on the back of this page.) Then complete the rest of the worksheet, following all directions and answering all questions.

The Far Side



From Gary Larson, *The Far Side* Gallery. ©1984 by the Chronicle Publishing Company.

Your Account:

1. Read the definitions of the terms *observation* and *inferences*.

- *Observation* is the act of seeing an object or an event and noting the physical characteristics or points in the event. Observation is an extension of our senses; when we observe, we record what is seen, smelled, tasted, heard, and touched.
- *Inferences* are conclusions based on observations. Inferences go beyond what we can directly sense.

2. Reread the account you wrote. Underline once all observations and underline twice all inferences.

3. Read the definitions of qualitative observations and quantitative observations.

- *Qualitative observations* describe an object's characteristics, properties, or attributes. For example, in the statement, "The apple is red," *red* is a qualitative observation of the apple's appearance.
- *Quantitative observations* involve a quantity or an amount. In the statement, "The apple weighs 125 grams," *125 grams* is a quantitative observation of the apple's appearance.

4. Reread the account you wrote. Mark qualitative observations with the abbreviation for *adjective* (adj.); mark quantitative observations with the pound sign (#).

5. Making observations is not as straightforward as you might think. The mind interprets what we sense. For the following statements, place an "O" next to observations and an "I" next to inferences. For the final two, write your own observation and inference about the cartoon.

- a. _____ The time of day in the cartoon is unknown.
- b. _____ The person is wearing shoes and socks.
- c. _____ The person pictured is a man.
- d. _____ The chin-up bar is set too high.
- e. _____ The chin-up bar arrived in one package.
- f. _____ The person pictured has less than 20/20 eyesight.
- g. _____ The person is lying on their back.
- h. _____ The person has sustained an injury.
- i. _____ The person is a teenager.
- j. _____ The frame of the glasses is bent.
- k. _____ This was the first time the individual used a chin-up bar.
- l. O _____
- m. I _____

Name _____ Date _____
Per. _____ Observation vs. Inference Worksheet

Observation vs. Inference

Under the statement, please write whether the statement is an observation, inference or both. If it is an observation, please indicate whether or not it is a quantitative or qualitative observation.

Ex: I like apple pie because I am an American.
Inference *Qualitative observation*

Ex: The class had tables that were 50 cm long.
Quantitative observation.

1. The fence is 4 meters high.
2. The dog has long ears.
3. A woman with a Yankees shirt likes baseball
4. Mrs. Tarantino has blue eyes.
5. Mrs. Tarantino has two ears.
6. The grass was wet because the sprinkler was on.
7. The fire alarm made noise because there was a fire.
8. Mrs. Wright is a teacher because she likes working with children.
9. A student went to the main office because she was bad.
10. There was one book on each desk.
11. The trees were tall
12. Katie knows how to drive because she owns a car.
13. There were 15 students on the school bus.
14. Daniel likes winter because he lives in New York.
15. Dana has a periodic table in her room, so she must love science.

Name: _____

Section: _____

Observations and Inferences Practice

Directions: Refer to each of the scenarios or pictures below and list any observations made by the individuals. Once you have listed the observations you should try to come up with an inference (or inferences) based on those observations.

1. After Kristen walked out of her house she heard a siren and smelled smoke.

Observations	Inference(s)

2. Timothy noticed that after Mr. Smith gave Jessica her quiz she said, "I cannot believe this" and a few tears rolled down her face.

Observations	Inference(s)

3.

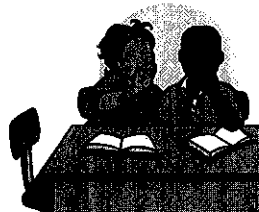


Observations	Inference(s)

4. Jill was playing with her baby sister and noticed that she stopped making noises. After looking closely at her sister she saw that her face was "scrunched" together and turning red.

Observations	Inference(s)

5.



Observations	Inference(s)

6. Create your own scenario/story or draw a picture in the space below and complete the table as you did for the previous questions.

Observations	Inference(s)